

# State of Iowa

## Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER THREE

**WHEREAS,** the overall health of Iowa's rural communities is vital to the long-term success of this State; and

**WHEREAS,** in order for rural Iowa to thrive, it must be an attractive target for investment by the private sector, and the public sector must be a wise investment partner by effectively utilizing its limited resources; and

**WHEREAS,** in order for rural Iowa to keep its talented individuals and bring Iowans back home, local leadership must be effectively developed, must strategically plan, and must set a vision to make Iowa an attractive place for people to live and work; and

**WHEREAS,** broadband connectivity is essential for nearly every aspect of life today – for business, for education, and for agriculture, to name a few – so we must ensure that rural Iowa is fully connected to the world:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby declare the State of Iowa will be well-served by taking a new, innovative approach to addressing the needs and desires of its rural residents by establishing "The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative."

#### SECTION ONE: Purpose.

- I. The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative is tasked with finding concrete solutions to the unique challenges and opportunities that exist in rural Iowa.
- II. The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will identify legislative, regulatory, and policy ideas designed to increase opportunities and quality of life throughout rural Iowa by encouraging investment, by working to maintain and grow the population of rural communities and develop the next generation of leadership, and by boosting efforts to facilitate high-speed internet connectivity across and within rural areas in Iowa.

#### SECTION TWO: Organization and Operation.

- I. The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will partner with the Iowa Rural Development Council to carry out the the Initiative. The Honorary Co-Chairs of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will be the Chair of the Iowa Rural Development Council and the Lieutenant Governor.
- II. The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative and the Iowa Rural Development Council will create three subject matter task forces, each of which will be chaired by the Chair of the Iowa Rural Development Council and the Lieutenant Governor:
  - A. **The Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force.** The Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force will review existing state policies and programs related to rural investment, and will assess

those policies' and programs' impact upon rural Iowa. The Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force will likewise propose changes to any existing state policies and programs so reviewed, or propose new policies and programs designed to encourage new or expanded investment in rural Iowa. The Investing in Iowa Task Force will consider a wide range of potential policy matters, including, but not limited to, ways to create or strengthen partnerships with persons or organizations to fully leverage existing efforts directed towards rural investment, methods to bring additional resources to rural Iowa or to maximize the use of limited resources already existing, and policies designed to meet the State's rural housing needs.

**B. The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force.** The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force will consider ideas, policies, or initiatives designed to encourage and develop the next generation of leadership for rural communities, and to encourage community strategic planning. The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force may also consider initiatives impacting rural quality of life, strategies for retaining talent in rural communities, and bringing back former Iowans.

**C. The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force.** The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force will review existing state policies and programs related to broadband connectivity in rural Iowa, and will assess those policies' and programs' impact on rural Iowa. The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force will likewise propose changes to any existing state policies and programs so reviewed, or propose new policies and programs designed to encourage increased broadband connectivity throughout rural Iowa. The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force will consider a wide range of potential policy matters, including, but not limited to, ways to encourage broadband buildouts through the State, methods aimed at addressing any regulatory barriers or funding stream issues pertaining to broadband connectivity in rural Iowa, and policies and strategies designed to encourage partnerships among broadband providers to meet the connectivity needs and demands of rural Iowans.

**III.** Each task force of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will consist of at least 22 members. Members will be selected by the Governor, five of which will be recommended by the Iowa Rural Development Council, from its membership. The ex-officio members will be the Chair of the Iowa Rural Development Council, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture, two members of the Iowa Senate (one from the majority party and one from the minority party) and two members of the Iowa House of Representatives (one from the majority party and one from the minority party). Members will serve staggered, two-year terms. Each member will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and will serve without compensation and in an advisory capacity.

**IV.** The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will be led by an Executive Committee consisting of the co-chairs and three representatives from each task force, to be named by the Governor.

**V.** Each subject matter task force of The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative will meet to host "Ideas Summits" in locations throughout rural Iowa in the year 2018. Each Ideas Summit will address matters within or across the scope of the subject matter task force(s) holding the event. Participants in each Ideas Summit will be the members of the subject matter task force in question, and may also include residents of rural Iowa, persons or organizations interested in rural Iowa issues, or other persons, experts, or organizations interested in the subject matters to be discussed.

**VI.** Each subject matter task force will prepare a report of initial recommendations, to be submitted to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee will submit an initial report to the Governor, no later than December 31, 2018. Each subject-matter task force will make annual recommendations thereafter.

**VII.** Each subject-matter task force of The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative herein established will coordinate and cooperate with one another from time to time as necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Executive Order.



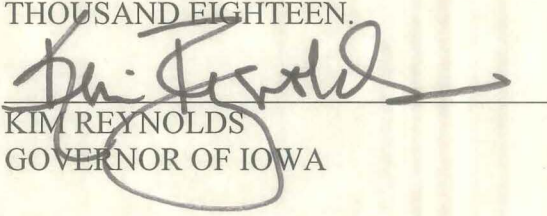
- VIII. Staffing and administrative assistance for The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, and each subject-matter task force established herein, will be provided through the shared efforts of the Office of the Governor, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Iowa Rural Development Council, and by other persons or organizations from time to time as necessary or appropriate.

**SECTION THREE: Miscellaneous.**

- I. All departments, agencies, boards, or other political subdivisions of state and local governments will cooperate fully with The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative to the extent required by law. The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative may seek the expertise and services of individuals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, and other needs as necessary or appropriate to accomplish its mission.
- II. All work of The Governor's Empower Iowa Initiative will be done in a manner consistent with the laws and regulations of the State of Iowa, and of the laws and regulations of the United States of America.
- III. This Executive Order will be interpreted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If any provision of this Executive Order is found to be invalid, unenforceable, or otherwise contrary to applicable law, then the remaining provisions of this Executive Order, as applied to any person or circumstance, will continue in full force and effect and will not be affected by such finding of invalidity or unenforceability. This Executive Order is not intended to supersede any laws, regulations, or collective bargaining agreements in place as of its effective date.
- IV. This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the State of Iowa, its departments, agencies, or political subdivisions, or its officers, employees, agents, or any other persons.
- V. The directive in this Executive Order will only apply prospectively of its effective date.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE  
HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME  
AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF  
THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED  
TO THI EXECUTIVE ORDER. DONE AT  
DES MOINES THIS 18TH DAY OF JULY  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO  
THOUSAND EIGHTEEN.

  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

  
PAUL D. PATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE